

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-16 are in the application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 6, 7, 13, and 14 are amended. Also, the Specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action dated July 2, 2004. Claims 5, 9 and 17 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has objected to the specification at Page 3, line 15 because of a typographical error relating to claim numbering, and therefore the phrase "an apparatus according to claim 10" has been changed to read --an apparatus according to claim 14--.

Claim 13 has been objected to because of the use of the language "in accordance with the method of claim 1." This language has been amended to now read --using the method of claim 1--. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claim 9 has been cancelled and this rejection has therefore been met.

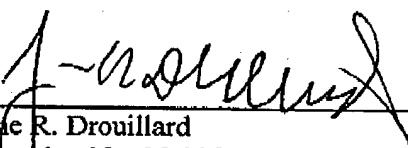
Claims 1-4, and 8-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Examiner has suggested that Applicants could overcome this rejection by incorporating claim 5 into the independent claims. As a result, the substance of claim 5 has been incorporated into Claim 1, and the substance of Claim 17 has been incorporated into Claim 14. As a result, claims 1-4, and 8-16 are now in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-4, 11, and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the combination of Martin (U.S. Patent #4,729,423) and Manthe, et al. (U.S. Patent #5,642,293). However, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 5-7 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations to the base claim in any intervening claims. As a result, as noted above, Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating substance of Claim 5 therein, and, as noted above, Claim 14 has been

amended by incorporating substance of Claim 17 therein. As a result, each of Claims 1-4, 11, and 14-16 are now believed to be in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Claim 13 has been rewritten to overcome the a 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, rejection and objection as set forth in the Examiner's office action, and as a result, in accord with the examiner's suggestion, Claim 13 is now allowable and should be passed to issue along with the other claims remaining in this case. Such action is earnestly solicited.

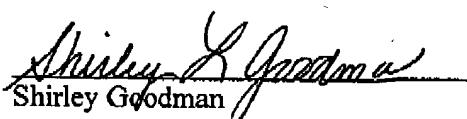
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Amendment is being faxed via (703) 872-9306 to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 29th day of September, 2004.


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